Dear Js, 7/11/76

I don't know if the sense of unreality I felt and for other reasons continue to feel is in the note to Leadr I thought could be somewhat amusing. It extends to even those things we think we can depend upon.

I finished that, fixed supper, turned the TV on for the net news and there is that which is least likely: Idi Amin saying he is breaking off all relations with the Arabs because they arr only trouble to him. To whom does he say this? Naturally, who else but the Israeli military attache of the past, by phone to Israel. Can it be that at 5 a.m. a week ago today, when it was still dark, I clearly heard- or though I had - that those same Israelis had invaded Amin's Uganda? And as late as yesterday he was going to find some way of retaliating? And the Arabs are nothing but trouble for him in the middle of the UN debate on this he caused?

After the kind of afternoon I had? Have you ever sat with a nice, genteel lady while she is bringing messages back to you from The Great Beyong in broad daylight? (That and the time we got the dog out is the only time from before 7 a.m. it wasn't stormy.) From an expended spook yet. While a public radio station in Baltimore is playing a Paul Robeson record. (Shouldn't have said that. The Washington one is right now playing his recording of Joe Hill - of all his songs - this Year of Our Ford! Oh, well, he's now safely dead, so he's an artist again.)

So I decide well, I'll never be able to pay any attention to anything so I'll take in my one convention coverage, CBS' preview instead of 60 Minutes. There is Severe-head slobbering through his lines so I can't tell if he said the people want an erection of a resurection. I'm still not sure.

Then they have a line accross the bottommof the tube whileall this nothing is going on saying that the weather bureau has just issued a severe strom warning good for another hours. I've been watching my pines sway for two hours. The current has been clicking on and off as branches hitting the lines somewhere trigger the circuit-breakers. (A half hour later the warning has been extended, on radio, for two more hours.)

Weather forecasting is something we've come to have a little faith in. it is pretty predictable. So two hours after the beginningx of a heavy lightening and thunder storm last night the forecast was less than 10% chance of rain and 85-90 today. Well,I was up before the sun and hvaen't yet seen it. We did have two breaks in the heavy rain. One let me take a walk , the other, happily, coincided with the adventure with the stupid monster of a dog. Not long after he left I could feel what was coming. And did. Several hours after which we got this "warning." Like this morning, the real/bright announcer reads the AP copy on the nice day, straight, then describes what he sees from his studio - a real storm.

It all began a week ago when a young man from a military family shot himself while loading a single-shot 22. It isn t possible! But neither is it that the bullet went through his hand without hitting a bone. As it actually did.

Can you imagine a monstrous big dog going after a skunk and not a faint odor - and both of them ending/up in the water - in daylight?I gotta witness.

It was that kind of week, beginning with the utterly impossible self-shooting.

I listen to my own interview of John Ray three years ago and understand what I then did not, which doesn't make me exactly proud. Jim gives me a copy of Jimmy Ray's letter to the appeals court they have to take as his announcement of am coming escape attempt. ("I'm not going to hang around and wait...")

Only the mail was good. There is this woman who writes like an old one from Lower Lake, Cal. 95457.She heard me on Jim Eason. A one-sentence comment:"I like the way you talk." Written on a 3x5 card.

Eve didn't laugh but I can imagine how ridiculous it looked: two good-size men, one with a noose the other with a chain, both pulling on this garguantuan dog who neither snarled nor braced. He just stood in the water after we pulled, his chest against the wall of the pool. Unreal. As is having and feeding so expensive a dog and not paying $2 for a license. Nobody to call....I look forward to the new week! Best,